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Net speak

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Net speak

Here is a glossary of common words and phrases used in reference to the Internet.

Baud

The baud rate is generally used when talking about modem speed. It's the rate that data transfers over the telephone lines or other media and is also known as bps, or bits per second. Modems are commonly rated at 14.4, 28.8, 33.6 or 56 Kbps (kilobits per second). It is generally said that where baud rates are concerned, more is better.

Browser

The software on your computer that allows you to access the graphical, textual and multimedia information on the World Wide Web.

Chat

A casual term for "Internet Relay Chat" (IRC). See IRC.

Commercial on-line service

Commercially operated computer networks that offer user-friendly interfaces and useful services in a structured environment.

Cyberspace

A casual term for the Internet.

Domain name

The unique name assigned to organizations when they establish a presence on the Internet. Part of every URL. An example of this would be the italicized portion of the following: <http://www.connect.gc.ca>

Download

The process of receiving information from an Internet computer and saving it on your hard drive.

E-mail

The process of sending and receiving instant, electronic, paperless messages. To use E-mail, you'll need E-mail software or a browser with E-mail capabilities.

FAQs

Stands for "frequently asked questions."

Usually appears as a document that lists and answers frequently asked questions about a particular Web site.

Home page

Used freely to refer to the first page loaded when you visit a Web site, the first page you set your browser to load, or your personal Web page.

http://

The protocol that tells your browser to search for a site on the World Wide Web. Usually followed by "www."

Internet

The term that describes the network created when computers around the world talk to each other. A network of networks, the Internet is constantly growing and changing.



IRC

Stands for "Internet Relay Chat," a feature that allows you to communicate, through your keyboard, in real time, just as if it were a live conversation. To participate in a chat, you'll need chat software and the address of an IRC server. Children should be supervised to avoid exposure to inappropriate material.

ISP

Stands for "Internet service provider," a company that provides Internet access for a fee.

Keyword

Descriptive words or phrases that help specify a concept when using a search engine.

Link

Hypertext links are URLs that are part of a Web page. They are shortcuts to other Web sites or to another portion of the same Web page. They are usually underlined and coloured differently from the rest of the Web page's text.

Modem

Hardware that allows your computer to use telephone lines to send and receive information.

Netiquette

The commonly accepted polite activities and behaviours when using the Internet. An unwritten code of conduct.

Newbie

A new user of the Internet.

Newsgroup

Discussion groups that are formed by people sharing common areas of interest. Users can read and post messages about a wide range of topics. Parents should supervise children when they are participating in any newsgroup discussions.

On-line

The state of using a computer that is connected to the Internet.

Protocol

A standard procedure for regulating data transmission between computers.

Real time

Instant communication. Usually in reference to IRC. Messages and replies appear on chat participants' screens as they are typed.

Search engine

A service that locates Web sites that match your search criteria.

Server

Any computer that stores and serves information over the Internet.

Surfing

The activity of browsing the World Wide Web.

Upload

The process of sending information from your computer to another Internet computer.

URL

Stands for "Universal Resource Locator," the technical term for a Web site's address. Every URL is unique and is composed of several distinct parts. An example of this is:

<http://www.connect.gc.ca>

Web page

Any single page of information that is accessible through the World Wide Web.

Web site

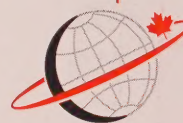
A collection of Web pages.

World Wide Web

Also known as the Web. See WWW.

WWW

Stands for "World Wide Web," the collection of images, documents and other information that is stored on computers around the globe. Highly graphical in nature, the Web has revolutionized the way people access the Internet.

**Zones**

The last portion of any domain name. Zones indicate the type of organization that publishes the Web site and/or the country where it originates. Common zones include:

.ca	Canada
.com	Commercial
.edu	Educational institution
.gc.ca	Government of Canada
.gov	Government
.mil	Military
.net	Network — usually ISPs
.org	Organizations — usually not-for-profit groups



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